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A D D R E S S
T O T H E
N O B I L I T Y, G E N T R Y,
A N D T H E O T H E R I N H A B I T A N T S
O F T H E
C O U N T Y O F E A S T L O T H I A N:

In which it is Proposed to Establish

A
D I S P E N S A R Y
A T H A D D I N G T O N,

For the RELIEF of the POOR, when Labouring under
ACUTE and CHRONICAL DISEASES.

By ROBERT INNES, M. D.

Blessed is he that considereth the Poor, the Lord will deliver him in Time of Trouble.

PSAL. xli. ver. I.

Homo sum, humani nihil a me alienum puto.——TERENT.

E D I N B U R G H:

M,DCC,LXXXII.



A N
A D D R E S S
T O T H E

NOBILITY, GENTRY, and the other INHABITANTS
of the County of *East Lothian*.

DEEPLY impressed with the unhappy Situation of those who have it not in their power to receive the necessary aid in time of Sickness, which others, in better circumstances, can readily procure; and as daily application has been made to me, by a variety of distressed Objects, since I came to this Place, for Medical Advice; and the greatest number of these were not in a capacity to purchase such Medicines as were proper to relieve their Complaints: For this, and many other considerations to be after mentioned, I am, and have been of opinion for some time past, that it would be very proper to establish a DISPENSARY in this Place; and therefore do think it my duty to give the earliest intimation of this my intention, to the Noblemen, Gentlemen, Ministers, Farmers, and every other charitably disposed Person in this County, in order to have their Advice and Assistance for the establishment of this useful Charity.

The utility of Dispensaries, in different parts of the kingdom, has been great; and, it is expected, this will be no less so, when rightly established, and put under proper management.

Which way soever we turn our eyes, we are presented with a variety of objects, for the exercise of Charity and Beneficence. God, Nature, universal Reason and Equity, all concur, to invite

us to the practice of these Godlike and amiable virtues. “ It is
 “ more blessed to give than to receive.” It is justly observed by
 CICERO, “ That of all the Resemblances and Imitations of the
 “ Divinity, that human Nature is capable of, the nearest ap-
 “ proach we can make to Him, is, in that particular of doing
 “ good.” And PLINY observes, “ That when one man succours
 “ another, he does an act more than human, and becomes, as it
 “ were, a God to his Brother.”

Nothing is so agreeable to the dictates of nature, as to assist
 those who are partakers of the same nature. The Liberal Man
 does not content himself with relieving objects of charity, when
 they come in his way, but he goes out to meet, and takes pains
 to find them out.

CÆSAR used to say, “ That no music was so charming in his
 “ ears, as the Requests of his Friends, and the Supplications of
 “ the Poor.”

The motto of True Greatness, is, ASK ME: This is to imi-
 tate GOD, who hath said, “ Call upon me in the Day of Trouble,
 “ and I will answer thee.”

It is recorded of one of the greatest Philosophers, and best of
 men, the Honourable ROBERT BOYLE, That, for twenty years of
 his life, he gave away in Charity, to the amount of a Thousand
 Pounds a-year.

MARK ANTHONY, when depressed, and at an ebb of fortune
 so low, that he had nothing but Death left at his own disposal,
 cried out, “ That he had lost all except what he had given
 “ away.”

Such sentiments as these, as well as the examples of great,
 wise and good men, are certainly well worthy of our imitation;
 and from the facility and readiness with which the Nobility and
 Gentry in the neighbourhood of Haddington, with whom I have
 the honour to be acquainted, have agreed to this scheme, I have
 every reason to hope, that those whom I have not the pleasure to
 know, will, in like manner, embrace the first opportunity of de-
 claring their hearty concurrence and approbation, and will do
 every

every thing in their power to promote this useful and charitable Institution.

Salus populi suprema lex est, is a very just maxim, whether taken in a political or natural point of view. We must either admit that the Body of the People is useless to the State, or that care should be taken to preserve and continue them. In many diseases, relief can only be afforded to the Poor, by removing them from their own houses, to Hospitals better accommodated for their recovery. There are, indeed, many labouring Poor in every city, but more especially in the country, who are subject to a variety of ailments, in a situation where their useful labours are neither lost to their families, nor to the Public; where a father may provide for those of his own house, and a mother tend her helpless infants, while both are in a more proper line of recovery, than if confined to an Hospital. Dispensaries, therefore, have been established in many populous cities and towns of this kingdom; their good effects are universally acknowledged, and they are patronised by persons of the first character and distinction. In support of this opinion, although perhaps there is not a metropolis in Europe better supplied with Hospitals than London, a Dispensary, for furnishing the indigent sick with Medicines and Advice, has been lately established there, which is supported by no other Fund but voluntary annual Contributions, and has been the means of relieving thousands from wretchedness and misery. It also affords a convincing proof of the utility of the institution, That the number of the Contributors has been considerably augmented every year since the commencement of the Charity; and the advantages resulting from a similar institution in Dublin, have been so clearly demonstrated, that it has been repeatedly aided by grants of money even from the Legislature of that kingdom.

That an establishment of this nature at Haddington, would be attended with the best consequences, is at least highly probable. If, therefore, it can be shown, that this scheme can be set on foot at no great expence, little else would probably be requisite for car-

rying it into execution, than paying rent for a house, with the proper conveniencies for the purposes intended; and these would require neither a large nor extensive habitation. An annual fund for the support of this Charity, it is hoped, will be easily obtained, by Subscriptions from the County in general, and, in process of time, perhaps a considerable sum may be raised from the profits arising from the use of the Electrical Machine.

From these, and many other weighty Considerations, I am at present induced to lay this Proposal before the Noblemen, Gentlemen, &c. in this County, in hopes, that a Charity, which, in my humble opinion, will be attended with the greatest advantage, may be put upon a permanent footing; and, although the regulations by which this Charity should be conducted, behoved afterwards to be settled by the Subscribers; yet the following Conditions, most of which are copied from the London, Edinburgh and Kelso Dispensaries, might answer, along with such other Regulations as they shall judge proper:

I. THAT every person applying to this charity, must be recommended by a Subscriber to the Dispensary, or by the Minister or Kirk-session of the parish where he resides, to prevent any other than the real Poor, from reaping any advantage from this institution.

II. THE Ministers and Kirk-sessions subscribing two Guineas each annually, have a right at all times to recommend two patients, from the Pools Roll, or otherways; and the Deacons of the incorporate Trades in Haddington, who subscribe to this Charity, have a right to recommend their diseased Members, who are not in a capacity to employ a Surgeon.

III. ALL Subscribers of one Guinea and upwards, annually, shall hold the rank of Governor, and shall be entitled to have one Patient constantly on the books;—of two Guineas, to have two; and so on in proportion.

IV. A

IV. A benefaction of Ten Guineas, constitutes a Governor for life, and entitles him to have two Patients always on the Books.

V. A general Meeting of the Subscribers to be held annually, to chuse proper Officers, and to give necessary orders for the regulation of the Charity.

VI. THAT at the annual Meeting, a particular Account shall be laid before the Governors, of the Money collected and expended during the preceding year, and of the Number of Patients that have obtained Assistance from the Dispensary.

VII. AT the general Meeting, a Committee to be appointed by the Governors, to meet every quarter, to enquire into the œconomy of the Dispensary, and to read the returns of the sick.

VIII. THE Charity to be governed by a President, four Vice-presidents, and a Committee of Governors, annually chosen by the Subscribers.

IX. THE names of the Patients, their ages, diseases, the event of their cases; as also the names of the Subscribers who recommended them, to be registred in a proper Book, for the inspection of the Subscribers to the Charity.

X. IF the Patient is dismissed on account of any irregularity, the Subscriber recommending the person, to be made acquainted with the reason.

XI. ALL Patients must deliver their letters of recommendation to the Apothecary of the Dispensary, every Friday, from 9 to 12 o'clock forenoon; and on Sundays before Divine service in the forenoon. The Physician and Surgeon to attend at these hours to give Advice, and direct such Medicines to be given, as are proper for the Patients.

XII. WHEN any Patient has been three months on the Books, the Subscriber has a right to recommend another, though the former be not dismissed.

XIII. THE greatest œconomy to be used in the article of Medicines; the Shop only to be furnished with a select number of the most efficacious Drugs.

XIV. IF any person is drowned in the river, or waters within a proper distance from Haddington, by sending immediately to the Dispensary, one of the Assistants will go directly to the place, where the unfortunate Person lies, and use every means for his Recovery; for which purpose, a proper Apparatus to be kept at the Dispensary.

XV. As medical Electricity is now become a considerable article in the Materia Medica, and has been found to be of great use in various Diseases: For the benefit of this Charity, a complete Electrical Apparatus will be kept at the Dispensary, for the use of the County in general; each person (not entitled to the Charity) to pay so much weekly, monthly or quarterly, while under cure.

XVI. THE Physician, or Physicians, to give their Advice and Attendance *gratis*. The Apothecary to be allowed a salary, at the option of the Governors; and, in any Case that requires immediate assistance, he is to apply to the Physician; and, in case of his absence, he himself is to give such Advice as he shall judge proper.

XVII. THE Surgeon, or Surgeons, to be obliged to visit any Patient in the country, whose Disease requires immediate attendance; such as Fevers and Accidents, for which a sum is allowed from the Charity, in proportion to the distance from Haddington.

XVIII. As

XVIII. As circumstances of Subscribers may alter, so as it may not be convenient to continue their annual Donations, it is requested, before they withdraw the same, that they will be so good as acquaint the Treasurer of the Charity.

EXPERIENCE alone, and that for a length of time, can certainly determine as to the advantages or disadvantages, that may attend any new Institution; yet it is presumed, and with some degree of confidence, that if the proposed Plan is properly executed, every Subscriber will have a most convincing proof of its real utility, and the following advantages will probably result from it.

It will afford Relief to many industrious Poor, afflicted with tedious Ailments, and of such a nature, as to render them improper Patients for admission into an Hospital.

It will diminish the number of applications to the Royal Infirmary, from such as are not entitled or fit to be admitted there.

It will prevent numbers from throwing away their Money, which should go to the Support of their Families, in purchasing improper Remedies at Laboratories, for themselves, wives and children, which generally do more harm than good, and protract in place of removing their complaints.

It will in some measure restrain the abuse of Medicine, and rescue it from the hands of ignorant and illiterate Quacks and Mountebanks. As the aid to be obtained from Regular Physicians, and Surgeons in cities, is not so easily procured in country places, and many Diseases, to which the common people are liable, by the application of improper Remedies, degenerate into worse Complaints, which frequently terminate in Death. For, as Dispensaries are chiefly intended for such as labour under tedious and chronical Diseases, these necessarily require the Prescriptions of Persons conversant in all the different branches of the Practice of Medicine; and which knowledge, it is impossible for those who have not studied Physic to arrive at; as the pro-
per

per treatment of fuch Complaints, is fufficiently difficult. to the moft experienced Phyficians, and require the moft attentive obfervation they are capable of ; and, as Health is the greateft bleffing of life, and that which gives a relifh to all its enjoyments, fo thofe who are beft qualified to reftore it, when loft, will always be held in great efteem amongft mankind. Some, indeed, have no confidence in the Power of Medicine ; but, in general, he that is really Sick, for the moft part, will fend for the Phyfician, and he that is Wounded will at all times blefs the hand that poureth in the healing Balm.

Another Advantage, which will naturally result from this Charity, is, that it will give every Contributor an opportunity of relieving, at a very fmall Expence to himfelf, thofe of his own Servants, or others whom he may accidentally learn to be in neceffitous circumftances, and who require that charitable aid, which is of all others the moft effential, the means of reftoring Health.

Upon the whole, it is hoped, that the Perfons to whom this Addrefs is prefented, will not think the Plan therein propofed, unworthy of their Countenance and Approbation ; at the fame time they are acquainted that no Subfcriptions will be expected, till the County-meeting on the firft Tuefday of October takes place, when it is earneftly intreated, that all the Members will attend, that a Treafurer may be elected for receiving the Money, and Directors appointed for the proper Adminiftration of the Fund.